

IDAPA 20 - DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

20.02.01 - RULES PERTAINING TO THE IDAHO FOREST PRACTICES ACT

DOCKET NO. 20-0201-0801

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING - PROPOSED RULE

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 67-5221(1), Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency has initiated proposed rulemaking procedures. The action is authorized by Sections 58-104(6), 58-105, and 38-1304, Idaho Code.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE: Public hearings concerning this rulemaking will be held as follows:

| IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS | | |
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| Friday - September 5, 2008 10:00 am - 11:30 am PDT 3780 Industrial Ave S. Coeur d'Alene, ID | Thursday - September 11, 2008 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm PDT 10230 Hwy 12 Orofino, ID | Thursday - September 18, 2008 10:00 am - 11:30 am MDT 300 North 6th Street, Suite 103 Boise, ID |

The hearing sites will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for accommodation must be made not later than five (5) days prior to the hearing, to the agency address below.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The following is a nontechnical explanation of the substance and purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

This rule is intended to implement the recent 2008 amendment to Section 42-201, Idaho Code, adding subsections 3(b), (4), (5) and (6) thereto, which allow for the diversion of water from a natural watercourse for certain forest practices and forest dust abatement without a water right, with certain restrictions.

FEE SUMMARY: The following is a specific description of the fee or charge imposed or increased: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT: The following is a specific description, if applicable, of any negative fiscal impact on the state general fund greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) during the fiscal year as a result of this rulemaking: There is no fiscal impact associated with this rulemaking.

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING: Pursuant to Section 67-5220(2), Idaho Code, negotiated rulemaking was not conducted because the language of this rule was developed by the Forest Practices Act Advisory Committee, which includes representatives of the persons affected by the rule.

GENERAL INFORMATION: For more information about IDL's programs and activities, visit IDL's web site at <http://www.idl.idaho.gov>.

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: For assistance on technical questions concerning this rulemaking, contact the undersigned.

Anyone may submit written comments by mail, fax or e-mail at the address below regarding this proposed rule. IDL will consider all written comments received by the undersigned on or before September 24, 2008.

DATED this 17th day of July, 2008.

Craig Foss, Chief
Bureau of Forestry Assistance
Idaho Department of Lands
3780 Industrial Ave. S
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815
Phone: (208) 769-1525 / Fax No. (208) 769-1524

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF DOCKET NO. 20-0201-0801

020. GENERAL RULES.

01. Compliance. Practices contained within a rule shall be complied with to accomplish the purpose to which the rule is related. (8-13-85)

a. If conditions of sites or activities require the application of practices which differ from those prescribed by the rules, the operator shall obtain a variance according to the following procedure: (8-13-85)

i. The operator shall submit a request for variance to the department in writing. The request shall include a description of the site and particular conditions which necessitate a variance, and a description of proposed practices which, if applied, will result in a violation of the rules. (8-13-85)

ii. Within fourteen (14) calendar days the department shall evaluate the request and notify the operator in writing of the determination to allow or disallow the variance request. (7-1-96)

iii. All practices authorized under this procedure shall provide for equivalent or better results over the long term than the rules which are superseded to insure site productivity, water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. A variance can be applied only at approved sites. (8-13-85)

b. Practices shall also be in compliance with the Stream Channel Alteration Act (Title 42, Chapter 38, Idaho Code), Idaho Water Quality Standards and Waste Water Treatment Requirements (Title 39, Chapter 1, Idaho Code), the Idaho Pesticide Law (Title 22, Chapter 34, Idaho Code), and the Hazardous Waste Management Act of 1983 (Title 39, Chapter 44, Idaho Code), and rules and regulations pursuant thereto. (8-13-85)

c. Water may be diverted from a stream and used at any time to carry out Idaho forest practices and for forest road dust abatement, provided that: ()

i. The total daily volume diverted is no greater than two-tenths (0.2) acre-feet (65,170 gallons) from a single natural watercourse; and ()

ii. The rate of diversion shall never exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the rate of flow then available in the natural watercourse at the point of diversion for these purposes. No person shall, under this Section 020, divert water from an irrigation canal, irrigation reservoir, or other irrigation facility while water is lawfully diverted, stored, captured, conveyed, used or otherwise physically controlled by an irrigator, irrigation district or canal company. ()

d. Water diversion intakes used for diversions under Subsection 020.01 shall be screened with a maximum screen mesh size as follows: ()

i. Fish-bearing Class I streams: Three thirty-seconds (3/32) inch. ()

ii. All other streams and watercourses: One-quarter (1/4) inch. ()

02. Conversion of Forest Lands. Conversions require a notification be filed, and compliance with all rules except those relating to reforestation. On converted parcels larger than one (1) acre, plant acceptable vegetative cover sufficient to maintain soil productivity and minimize erosion. Cover shall be established within one (1) year of completion of the forest practice except that the director may grant an extension of time if weather or other conditions interfere. Within three (3) years of completion of the forest practice, the director shall determine if the conversion has been accomplished by: (7-1-96)

a. The presence or absence of improvements necessary for use of land for its intended purpose;

(7-1-96)

b. Evidence of actual use of the land for the intended purpose. (10-14-75)

c. If the conversion has not been accomplished within three (3) years of the completion of harvest, supplemental reforestation Subsection 050.06 applies. (7-1-96)

03. Annual Review and Consultation. The director shall, at least once each year, meet with other state agencies and the Forest Practices Advisory Committee and review recommendations for amendments to rules, new rules, or repeal of rules. He shall then report to the board a summary of such meeting or meetings, together with recommendations for amendments to rules, new rules, or repeal of rules. (10-14-75)

04. Consultation. The director shall consult with other state agencies and departments concerned with the management of forest environment where expertise from such agencies or departments is desirable or necessary. (10-14-75)

a. The Idaho Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements, IDAPA 58.01.02, (Title 39, Chapter 1, Idaho Code) reference the Forest Practice Rules as approved best management practices and describe a procedure of modifying the practices based on monitoring and surveillance. The director shall review petitions from Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for changes or additions to the rules according to Administrative Procedures Act (Title 67, Chapter 52, Idaho Code) and make recommendations for modification to the Board of Land Commissioners. (9-20-88)

05. Notification of Forest Practice. (10-14-75)

a. Before commencing a forest practice or a conversion of forest lands the department shall be notified as required in Subsection 020.025.b. The notice shall be given by the operator. However, the timber owner or landowner satisfies the responsibility of the operator under this subsection. When more than one forest practice is to be conducted in relation to harvesting of forest tree species, one notice including each forest practice to be conducted shall be filed with the department. (~~7-1-96~~)(____)

b. The notification required by Subsection 020.05.a. shall be on forms prescribed and provided by the department and shall include the name and address of the operator, timber owner, and landowner; the legal description of the area in which the forest practice is to be conducted; whether the forest practice borders an outstanding resource water and other information the department considers necessary for the administration of the rules adopted by the board under Section 38-1304, Idaho Code. All notifications must be formally accepted by the department before any forest practice may begin. Promptly upon formal acceptance of the notice but not more than fourteen (14) calendar days from formal acceptance of the notice, the department shall mail a copy of the notice to whichever of the operator, timber owner, or landowner that did not submit the notification. The department shall make available to the operator, timber owner, and landowner a copy of the rules. (7-1-96)

c. An operator, timber owner, or landowner, whichever filed the original notification, shall notify the department of any subsequent change in the information contained in the notice within thirty (30) calendar days of the change. Promptly upon receipt of notice of change, but not to exceed fourteen (14) calendar days from receipt of notice, the department shall mail a copy of the notice to whichever of the operator, timber owner, or landowner that did not submit the notice of change. (7-1-96)

d. The notification is valid for the same period as set forth in the certificate of compliance under Section 38-122, Idaho Code. At the expiration of the notification, if the forest practice is continuing, the notification shall be renewed using the same procedures provided for in this section. (4-21-92)

e. If the notification required by Subsection 020.05.a. of this section indicates that at the expiration of the notification that the forest practice will be continuing, the operator, timber owner, or landowner, at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the expiration of the notification, shall notify the department and obtain a renewal of the notification. Promptly upon receipt of the request for renewal, but not to exceed fourteen (14) calendar days from receipt of the request, the department shall mail a copy of the renewed notification to whichever of the operator, timber owner, or landowner that did not submit the request for renewal. (7-1-96)

- 06. Notification Exception.** A notification of Forest Practice is required except for: (7-1-98)
- a.** Routine road maintenance, recreational uses, grazing by domestic livestock, cone picking, culture and harvest of Christmas trees on lands used solely for the production of Christmas trees, or harvesting of other minor forest products. (10-14-75)
 - b.** Non-commercial cutting and removal of forest tree species by a person for his own personal use. (10-14-75)
 - c.** Clearing forest land for conversion to surface mining or dredge and placer mining operations under a reclamation plan or dredge mining permit. (9-20-88)
- 07. Emergency Forest Practices.** No prior notification shall be required for emergency forest practices necessitated by and commenced during or immediately after a fire, flood, windthrow, earthquake, or other catastrophic event. Within forty-eight (48) hours after commencement of such practice, the operator, timber owner, or landowner shall notify the director with an explanation of why emergency action was necessary. Such emergency forest practices are subject to the rules herein, except that the operator, timber owner, or landowner may take any reasonable action to minimize damage to forest lands, timber, or public resource from the direct or indirect effects of the catastrophic event. (7-1-96)
- 08. Duty of Purchaser.** The initial purchaser of forest tree species which have been harvested from forest lands shall, before making such purchase or contract to purchase or accepting delivery of the same, receive and keep on file a copy of the notice required by Section 38-1306, Idaho Code relating to the harvesting practice for which the forest tree species are being acquired by the initial purchaser. Such notice shall be available for inspection upon request by the department at all reasonable times. (7-1-96)
- 09. State Divided into Regions.** For the purpose of administering this Act, the State is divided into two (2) forest regions: one (1) north of the Salmon River and one (1) south of the Salmon River. (7-1-96)
- 10. Regions Divided into Forest Habitat Types.** For the purpose of further refining the on-the-ground administration of the Act, the forest regions can be divided into Habitat Types. (7-1-96)